

# Introducing... the Paperless Tax Return



**Internal Revenue Service**  
P.O. Box 8904  
Bloomington, IL 61702-9960

**Official Business**  
Penalty for Private Use, \$300



Click. Zip. Fast Round Trip.

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**Bulk Rate**  
**Postage and Fees Paid**  
Internal Revenue Service  
**Permit No. G-48**

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Filing your taxes just got easier! You have been selected to participate in an IRS pilot program for completely paperless returns. Read on to learn how to use your electronic signature (shown below) to file a completely paperless 1998 return.

If you are the first or only name on the address line,  
your e-file Customer Number (ECN) is

If you are the second name on the address line, your ECN is

Your ECN is your "electronic signature" to be used when filing your 1998 Federal income tax return electronically using the Paperless Tax Return program described on the other side. If you lose the number(s), we cannot replace them and you will not be able to participate in this new paperless filing program this year. However, you may still file a "traditional" electronic return that will require you to sign and file Form 8453 or 8453-OL with any necessary attachments. If you plan to file a joint return, your spouse will have to use his or her correct ECN above. A joint return must include both spouses' ECNs. See the



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## Dear Taxpayer:

Our records show that you used a computer to prepare your 1997 Federal income tax return. Therefore, you may be eligible to participate in a new IRS *e-file* program which allows you to file a completely paperless return!

The remarkable benefits of IRS *e-file* are:

- Faster refunds—in half the usual time.
- More accurate than a paper return.
- Quick proof from the IRS of return acceptance.
- The opportunity to “file now...pay later.” Taxpayers who have a balance due can e-file in January, receive confirmation of acceptance, and then delay actual payment until April 15. This year, for the first time, you can even choose to make your payments electronically, on the date that you designate.

If you have access to a personal computer with a modem and approved tax preparation software, available from tax software publishers at local computer software retailers or from various on-line filing companies' Internet websites, you may be able to file a completely paperless tax return. The tax preparation software will guide you through the simple requirements\* to determine if you can use your e-file Customer Number(s) (ECN) printed on the other side as your “electronic signature” instead of mailing us your signature on Form 8453-OL.

Answers to the most frequently asked questions about this exciting new program are available on our website at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov) or by calling 1-800-829-1040 for information (select information about the “Paperless Tax Return”).

If you are not eligible to participate in this pilot program or decide not to participate, we encourage you to use another IRS *e-file* option and mail in the paper signature document (Form 8453 or 8453-OL). For more details on IRS *e-file*, use TeleTax topic 252. TeleTax topics are available on our website or by calling 1-800-829-4477. If you would like to receive a tax package, see the information below.



*Charles O. Roscetti*  
Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service

## Simple Requirements

\*You must complete your return without the use of a paid preparer and have no required paper attachments to Form 8453-OL except Forms W-2, W-2G, or 1099-R. You will enter the information from these paper documents as part of your electronic return instead of mailing the documents.

## How To Get Tax Forms and Instructions

It is easy to get the forms, instructions, and other information you need. You can get them by connecting to [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov). You can also get forms and instructions faxed to you by calling 1-703-368-9694 from the telephone connected to the fax machine.

If you want us to mail you a tax package, detach the business reply mail postcard below and mail it as soon as possible. No postage is required. If your address on the back of the postcard is not correct, please make the necessary changes and cross out the bar codes and incorrect information using dark ink.